

- b) contacting the cell with a virus;
- c) detecting the level of viral infection;

Revised

d) associating the level of viral infection with the level of the gene product and/or gene product activity of the cellular gene of a), a decrease or elimination of viral infection associated with a decrease or elimination of the gene product and/or gene product activity of a cellular gene of a) indicating a compound effective for treating or preventing the viral infection.

Please add the following new claim:

31. (New) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness in treating or preventing a viral infection, comprising administering the compound to a cell containing a cellular gene comprising the nucleic acid set forth in SEQ ID NO:75, or a homolog thereof, wherein the cellular gene is identified by the method comprising:

- Revised*
- a) transferring into a cell culture, growing in serum-containing medium, a vector encoding a selective marker gene lacking a functional promoter;
 - b) selecting cells expressing the marker gene;
 - c) removing serum from the culture medium
 - d) infecting the cell culture with the virus, and
 - e) isolating from the surviving cells a cellular gene within which the marker gene is inserted, thereby identifying a gene necessary for viral growth in a cell and nonessential for cellular survival,

and functionally encoding a gene product necessary for reproduction of the virus in the cell but not necessary for survival of the cell and detecting the level and/or activity of the gene product produced, a decrease or elimination of the gene product and/or gene product activity indicating a compound effective for treating or preventing the viral infection.